

## A ISOMORPHISM-INVARIANT RELATIONAL VARIABLE

We describe a desired property of a relational variable. This property ensures that the interpretation of relational variable is consistent across graph isomorphic connected components of any relational skeleton  $\sigma \in \Sigma_S$ . Let  $S = \langle \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{A} \rangle$  be a relational schema and  $\sigma \in \Sigma_S$  be an arbitrary instantiation of the schema. Let  $CC_a^\sigma = \langle \mathcal{V}_a, \mathcal{E}_a, \mathcal{L}_a \rangle$  and  $CC_b^\sigma = \langle \mathcal{V}_b, \mathcal{E}_b, \mathcal{L}_b \rangle$  where each item is labeled with its item class. Let  $f_{a,b}^\sigma$  be a set of mapping functions demonstrating  $CC_a^\sigma \cong_{a,b} CC_b^\sigma$ , that is,  $f_{a,b}^\sigma = \{f \mid \forall v \in \mathcal{V}_a \mathcal{L}_a(v) = \mathcal{L}_b(f(v)) \wedge \forall u, v \in \mathcal{V}_a (u, v) \in \mathcal{E}_a \Leftrightarrow (f(u), f(v)) \in \mathcal{E}_b \wedge f(a) = b\}$ . Let  $U$  be a relational variable with domain  $\sigma(I)$  where  $I \in \mathbf{E} \cup \mathbf{R}$ . If

$$\forall f \in f_{a,b}^\sigma \{f(i) \mid i.X \in U_a\} = \{j \mid j.X \in U_{f(a)}\}$$

for any  $a, b \in \sigma(I)$  for any  $\sigma \in \Sigma_S$ , then,  $U$  is said to be *isomorphism-invariant*.

## B EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We describe experimental settings with the language of relational causal model (Maier et al., 2013). For simplicity, we represent a relational skeleton as an undirected graph of entities. Hence,  $(a, b) \in \sigma$  represents that two entities  $a$  and  $b$  are, in fact, connected to a common relationship item in the relational skeleton  $\sigma$ .

### B.1 SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS

**Relational Schema** There are four entity classes  $A, B, C$ , and  $D$  where each associates with attribute class  $X, Y, S$ , and  $T$ , respectively. There are three relationship classes between  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $A$  and  $C$ , and  $B$  and  $D$ . We used circle, square, rhombus, and triangle to refer  $A, B, C$ , and  $D$ .

**Relational Skeleton** We generate relational skeletons varying degrees of randomness from 0 to 1 where randomness of 0 is referred to as ‘biased’. Given randomness  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ , we initially generate a fully biased relational skeleton  $\sigma$ , then randomize some of edges between  $\sigma(A)$  and  $\sigma(B)$  to acquire a relational skeleton of desired randomness  $p$ .

Let  $n$  be the number of entities for each of  $A$  and  $B$  (we set  $n = 200$ ). There are  $n/2$  entities for  $C$  and  $D$ , respectively. Hence, let  $\sigma(A) = \{a_i\}_{i=1}^n$ ,  $\sigma(B) = \{b_i\}_{i=1}^n$ ,  $\sigma(C) = \{c_i\}_{i=1}^{n/2}$ , and  $\sigma(D) = \{d_i\}_{i=1}^{n/2}$ . We connect  $C$  items to  $A$  items and  $D$  items to  $B$  items,  $\{(a_i, c_i)\}_{i=1}^{n/2} \subset \sigma$  and  $\{(b_i, d_i)\}_{i=1}^{n/2} \subset \sigma$ . Then, we ‘‘initially’’ connect  $a_i$

and  $b_i$ ,  $\{(a_i, b_i)\}_{i=1}^n \subset \sigma$ . That is, by design, an  $A$  item having (or not having) a  $C$  neighbor is connected to a  $B$  item having (or not having) a  $D$  neighbor. Given the randomness  $p$ , we randomly pick  $np$   $B$  items and shuffle their  $A$  neighbors.

**Relational Causal Model** We use a linear Gaussian noise model with sum aggregators as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall c \in \sigma(C) \quad c.S &= \mu + \epsilon_c \\ \forall d \in \sigma(D) \quad d.T &= \mu + \epsilon_d \\ \forall a \in \sigma(A) \quad a.X &= \sum_{c \in ne^\sigma(a) \cap \sigma(C)} c.S + \mu + \epsilon_a \\ \forall b \in \sigma(B) \quad b.Y &= \sum_{a \in ne^\sigma(b) \cap \sigma(A)} \beta \cdot a.X + \\ &\quad \sum_{d \in ne(b; \sigma) \cap \sigma(D)} d.T + \mu + \epsilon_b \end{aligned}$$

where every  $\epsilon$  is an independent Gaussian noise with zero mean and variance  $0.1^2$ . We control the correlation between connected  $X$  and  $Y$  by adjusting  $\beta$  where  $\beta = 0$  implies that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independently generated, or more precisely,  $[A].X$  and  $[A, R_{AB}, B].Y$  are independent. The pair of  $X$  and  $Y$  values generated from this model can be understood as a mixture of four bivariate normal distributions and  $\mu$  controls the distance between distributions. When  $\mu = 0$ , all four distributions are centered at  $(0, 0)$ . Although, we described four distributions having the same mean as ‘homogeneous’, they have different variances.

We test unconditional independence between  $[A].X$  and  $[A, R_{AB}, B].Y$ .

### B.2 MORE COMPLICATED EXPERIMENTS

We only change how skeletons are generated. We use the same relational schema and relational causal model as shown above.

**Relational Skeleton** Similarly, we generate  $n = 400$  items for  $A$  and  $B$  and  $n/2$  items for  $C$  and  $D$ . Then, each  $a_i \in \sigma(A)$  randomly chooses  $C$  neighbor(s) so that  $a_i$  has one  $C$  neighbor if  $1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{3}$ , two neighbors if  $\frac{n}{3} < i \leq \frac{2n}{3}$ , and three neighbors if  $\frac{2n}{3} < i \leq n$ . Similarly, each  $b_i \in \sigma(B)$  randomly chooses  $D$  neighbor(s). As shown in the previous setup, we initialize relational skeleton with biased relationships between  $A$  and  $B$ , that is,  $\{(a_i, b_i)\}_{i=1}^n \subset \sigma$ . Then, we randomize the connection based on randomness parameter. We further add  $n$  random connections between  $\sigma(A)$  and  $\sigma(B)$ .

This setup yields more complicated structure than the previous setup since each of  $\{a.X\}_{a \in \sigma(A)}$  and

$\{b.Y\}_{b \in \sigma(B)}$  is made of dependent observations and  $A$  and  $B$  are in many-to-many relationships.

### B.3 CONDITIONAL TESTS

**Relational Schema** We have three entity classes  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ , which associates with  $X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$ , respectively. There are binary relationship classes for each pair of entity classes, i.e.,  $R_{AB}$ ,  $R_{AC}$ , and  $R_{BC}$ . All cardinalities are ‘many’, hence an entity can have *many* neighbors of the other entity class.

**Relational Skeleton** We control the maximum number of neighbors of the same kind. For example, an item of  $A$  can have at most  $k$  neighbors of  $B$ . In other words,  $\forall a_i \in \sigma(A) |ne^\sigma(a_i) \cap \sigma(B)| \leq k$ . We similarly put restrictions between  $B$  and  $C$  and between  $A$  and  $C$ , as well.

We construct relational skeletons where relationships of all three classes ( $R_{AB}$ ,  $R_{BC}$ , and  $R_{AC}$ ) are correlated. To do so, we adopt the idea of latent space modeling. Given  $n$ , the number of entities per entity class, we generate  $n$  points in  $[0, 1]^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  for each entity class. Let  $\phi(\cdot)$  be the coordinate of an item. Let  $\mathbf{D}^{AB}$  be a squared Euclidean distance where  $(\mathbf{D}^{AB})_{i,j} = \|\phi(a_i) - \phi(b_j)\|_2^2$ . Then, a kernel matrix  $\mathbf{K}^{AB}$  is  $(\mathbf{K}^{AB})_{i,j} = \exp(-\gamma \cdot (\mathbf{D}^{AB})_{i,j})$  where we chose  $\gamma = 50$ . By normalization, we get a probability matrix  $\mathbf{P}^{AB} = \frac{\mathbf{K}^{AB}}{(\mathbf{1}^\top \cdot \mathbf{K}^{AB} \cdot \mathbf{1})}$  to (approximately) model  $\Pr((a_i, b_j) \in \sigma) \propto 2(\mathbf{P}^{AB})_{i,j}$ . With this probability, we sample  $nk/2$  edges to form a relational skeleton while satisfying maximum number of neighbors  $k$ . For example, if we limit an item of  $A$  can have three neighbors of  $B$ , then, there are, on average, 1.5  $B$  neighbors for an item of  $A$ . Edges between  $A$  and  $C$  and between  $B$  and  $C$  are similarly obtained.

**Relational Causal Model** We consider three different models: two for conditional independence and one for conditional dependence. For testing null hypothesis, we randomly choose one of following two models:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a \in \sigma(A) \quad a.X &= \mu + \epsilon_a \\ \forall c \in \sigma(C) \quad c.Z &= \sum_{a \in ne^\sigma(c) \cap \sigma(A)} a.X + \mu + \epsilon_c \\ \forall b \in \sigma(B) \quad b.Y &= \sum_{c \in ne^\sigma(b) \cap \sigma(C)} c.Z + \mu + \epsilon_b \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \forall c \in \sigma(C) \quad c.Z &= \mu + \epsilon_c \\ \forall a \in \sigma(A) \quad a.X &= \sum_{c \in ne^\sigma(a) \cap \sigma(C)} c.Z + \mu + \epsilon_a \\ \forall b \in \sigma(B) \quad b.Y &= \sum_{c \in ne^\sigma(b) \cap \sigma(C)} c.Z + \mu + \epsilon_b. \end{aligned}$$

For testing alternative hypothesis, we use the following model where (roughly speaking)  $Z$  is a common effect of  $X$  and  $Y$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a \in \sigma(A) \quad a.X &= \mu + \epsilon_a \\ \forall b \in \sigma(B) \quad b.Y &= \mu + \epsilon_b \\ \forall c \in \sigma(C) \quad c.Z &= \sum_{a \in ne^\sigma(c) \cap \sigma(A)} a.X + \\ &\quad \sum_{b \in ne^\sigma(c) \cap \sigma(B)} b.Y + \mu + \epsilon_c. \end{aligned}$$

In all experiments, we set  $\mu = 0.3$ . We test

$$[B].Y \perp\!\!\!\perp [B, R_{AB}, A].X \mid [B, R_{BC}, C].Z$$

for the null hypothesis and test

$$[C, R_{AC}, A].X \perp\!\!\!\perp [C, R_{BC}, B].Y \mid [C].Z$$

for the alternative hypothesis.

## C TYPE I ERRORS FOR DIFFERENT METHODS

We illustrate type-I error plots for Section 5.2 and 5.3.

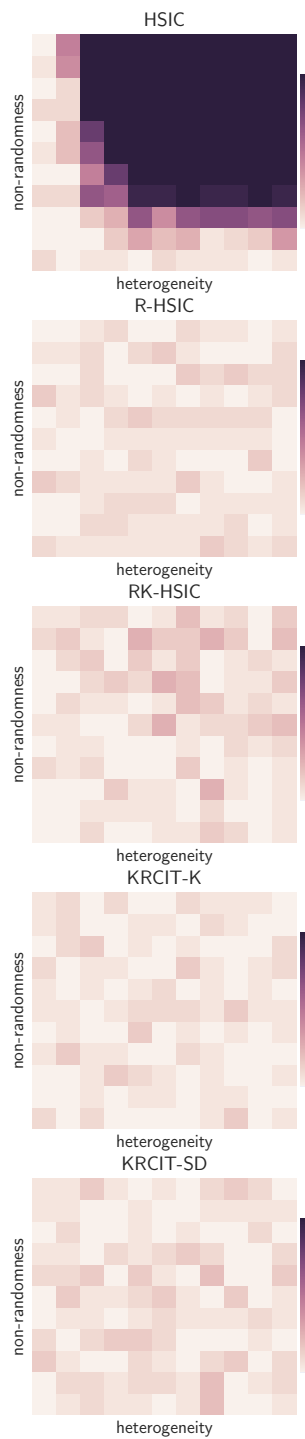


Figure 9: Type-I errors of different methods for Section 5.2.

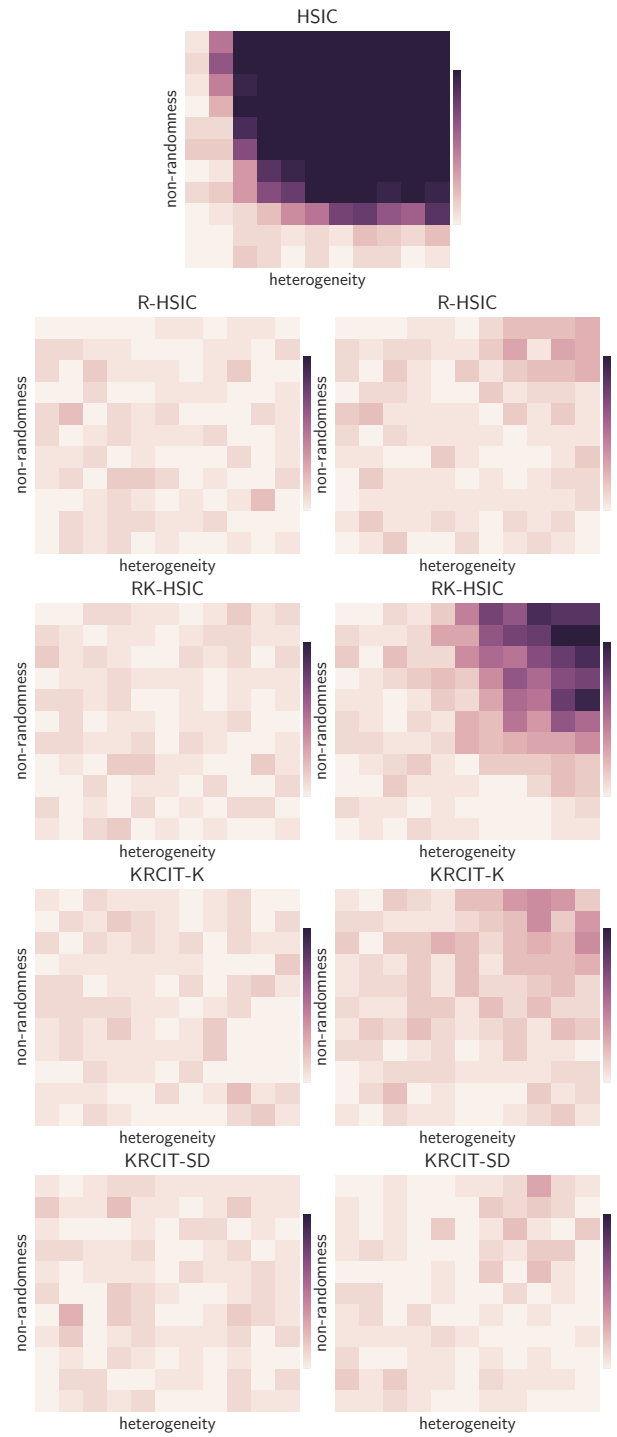


Figure 10: Type-I errors of different methods with two different contexts based on hop=1 (left) and hop=2 (right) for Section 5.3. HSIC does not use contexts.